



CENTER FOR THEORETICAL STUDIES
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE
BANGALORE-560 012

27 September 1983

Dr. Matthew Meselson
Department of Biochemistry
and Biophysics
Harvard University
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Meselson:

Enclosed is another batch of Apis dorsata feces, collected on 24 September outside Bangalore. The vegetation on which I found it was mixed ground cover under a huge banyan tree where 32 colonies were nesting (and where I have seen up to 186 colonies at the same time). The surrounding countryside was agricultural land, so, as in Pune, there were probably no nesting sites for A. cerana or A. florea available nearby.

One of my worries has been that all the rain we've been having may have washed away some soluble constituents of the feces. To date I have therefore tried to supply samples that looked fresh, as well as some found on brand new vegetation. In addition this time I was present as the bees were doing cleansing flights and found several fresh 'bee-pats', which I then dried in the sun and have sent along. There aren't many but they may be of some use.

Good luck with your further analyses.

Sincerely,

Fred C. Dyer